

Patent Application: 10/729,466
Docket No: P18477US1

Amendments in the claims:

1. (New) A method for processing node redundancy comprising the steps of:
 - a. detecting an unavailability of a first processing node;
 - b. sending to an adjacent Service Transfer Point (STP) a Transfer Allowed (TFA) message for enabling a linkset route between the STP and a second processing node.
2. (New) The method claimed in claim 1, further comprising the step of:
 - c. sending to the adjacent STP a Transfer Prohibited (TFP) message for disabling a linkset route between the STP and the first processing node.
3. (New) The method claimed in claim 1, further comprising the step of:
 - c. re-assigning to the second processing node a non-permanent Virtual Service Address (VSA) assigned to the first processing node before the step of detecting the unavailability of the first processing node.
4. (New) The method claimed in claim 3, wherein before the step of detecting the VSA is assigned to a Signal Processing Element (SPE) of the first processing node, and step c. comprises re-assigning the VSA to an SPE of the second processing node.
5. (New) The method claimed in claim 1, wherein the first processing node is a primary node, and the second processing node is a secondary, redundant node of the first processing node.
6. (New) The method claimed in claim 1, wherein the first and second processing nodes are arranged in a load-sharing configuration.
7. (New) The method claimed in claim 1, wherein steps a. and b. are performed by the first processing node.

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8. (New) The method claimed in claim 1, wherein steps a. and b. are performed by the second processing node.

9. (New) The method claimed in claim 8, wherein step a. is performed by the second processing node using a heartbeat mechanism with the first processing node.

10. (New) The method claimed in claim 8, further comprising the step of:

c. receiving at the second processing node at least one Transfer Prohibited (TFP) message from an adjacent STP, the TFP message inhibiting a transmission of messages to the first processing node;

wherein step a. is performed as a consequence of step c.

11. (New) The method claimed in claim 1, wherein the first and second processing nodes utilise Signalling System #7 (SS7) signalling protocol, and the TFA message comprises an SS7 message.

12. (New) A second processing node comprising:

a Signal Transfer Element (STE) for routing incoming and outgoing messages;

a Signal Processing Element (SPE) for processing the messages;

wherein the second processing node detects an unavailability of a first processing node, and responsive thereto the STE of the second processing node sends to an adjacent Service Transfer Point (STP) a Transfer Allowed (TFA) message for enabling a linkset route between the STP and the second processing node.

13. (New) The processing node claimed in claim 12, wherein the STE of the second processing node also sends to the adjacent STP a Transfer Prohibited (TFP) message for disabling a linkset route between the STP and the first processing node.

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14. (New) The processing node claimed in claim 12, wherein a non-permanent Virtual Service Address (VSA) assigned to an SPE of the first processing node before detecting the unavailability of the first processing node is re-assigning to the SPE of the second processing node upon detecting the unavailability of the first processing node.

15. (New) The processing node claimed in claim 12, wherein the first processing node is a primary node, and the second processing node is a secondary, redundant node of the first processing node.

16. (New) The processing node claimed in claim 12, wherein the first and second processing nodes are arranged in a load-sharing configuration.

17. (New) The processing node claimed in claim 12, wherein the second processing node detects the unavailability of the first processing node using a heartbeat mechanism with the first processing node.

18. (New) The processing node claimed in claim 12, wherein for detecting the unavailability of the first processing node, the second processing node receives at least one Transfer Prohibited (TFP) message from an adjacent STP, the TFP message inhibiting a transmission of messages to the first processing node.

19. (New) The processing node claimed in claim 12, wherein the first and second processing nodes utilise Signalling System #7 (SS7) signalling protocol, and the TFA message comprises an SS7 message.

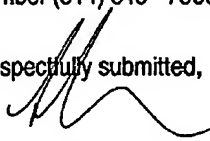
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Conclusion

All pending claims 1-19 are herein submitted as being in favorable condition for allowance.

In the Examiner finds out that a prosecution of the present invention would be facilitated by telephone interview, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned, Alex Nicolaescu, at telephone number (514) 345-7900 extension number 2596.

Respectfully submitted,



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